

To: Washburn, Ben[washburn.ben@epa.gov]
From: Quirarte-Ortiz, Cecilia
Sent: Thur 10/2/2014 10:08:20 PM
Subject: RE: OPA Daily Digest 10/2/14

Posted

From: Washburn, Ben
Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2014 4:20 PM
To: R7 Daily Digest Group
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 10/2/14

OPA Daily Digest for 10/2/14

Congressional Inquiries:

Sen. Roy Blunt (Mo.) – Email – 9/5/14: Deed restriction on contaminated property near the Missouri Electric Works site in Cape Girardeau. Due: 9/12/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (closed)

State Government Inquiries:

Sen. Gary Romine (Mo.) – letter – 10/1/14: Questioning high levels of lead in soil in southeastern Missouri. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

Press Inquiries:

Inside Washington Publishing – Doug Obey – 9/30/14: Requested a copy of speech delivered by the regional administrator to the Midwest Energy Policy Conference in St. Louis, Mo. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

KBIA Public Radio, Columbia, Mo. – Jasmine Lee – 10/1/14: Requesting interview regarding Regional Administrator Karl Brooks' recent guest editorial in the Columbia Tribune on the Clean Water Act. Contact: Kris

Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

West Plains Quill (Mo.) – Denise Vaughn – 10/1/14: Questions regarding Coastal Energy. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

Environmental Stories:

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Ameren plans to replace 2 coal plants with gas, renewables - 10/2/14 - Ameren Missouri predicts big additions of wind and natural gas to replace two coal plants it will retire during the next 20 years, and it expects to add another 10 megawatts of utility-scale solar by 2016.
http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/ameren-plans-to-replace-coal-plants-with-gas-renewables/article_f5fb7218-899c-5275-8b31-75b2cc5e566f.html

KWMU St. Louis Public Radio - Missouri Government And Industry Energy Plans Include Renewables, But Will They Go Far Enough? - 10/1/14 - Missouri is making headway toward developing a Comprehensive State Energy Plan Wednesday with the inaugural public meeting in St. Louis of the plan's steering committee.
<http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/missouri-government-and-industry-energy-plans-include-renewables-will-they-go-far-enough>

North American Wind Power - Missouri Utility's Proposal Has Major Focus On Clean Energy - 10/1/14 - Ameren Missouri has filed a 20-year plan that the utility says supports cleaner energy in the state, including major expansions of wind and solar power. Every three years, the utility files its Integrated Resource Plan with the Missouri Public Service Commission.
http://www.nawindpower.com/e107_plugins/content/content.php?content.13479

ReNews - Missouri targets wind and solar - 10/1/14 - Ameren Missouri filed today with the Missouri Public Service Commission a 20-year plan to support cleaner energy in the US state, including major expansions of solar and wind power. <http://renews.biz/76710/missouri-targets-wind-and-solar/>

Topeka Capital Journal - Report: No conclusive evidence earthquakes linked to oil and gas practices - 10/1/14 - A task force examining earthquakes in Kansas didn't find conclusive evidence linking practices used by drillers to "specific seismic events," but called for more study on the issue. <http://cjonline.com/news/business/2014-10-01/report-no-conclusive-evidence-earthquakes-linked-oil-and-gas-practices>

Quincy Journal (Ill.) - MO Soybean programs want Feedback on DNR program | Involves the state's

Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy - 10/1/14 - The Missouri Soybean Association is reviewing and preparing comments on the State's Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy and urges all members and soybean farmers to take part. <http://quincyjournal.com/farm-agriculture/2014/10/12118/mo-soybean-programs-want-feedback-on-dnr-program/>

USGS (news release) - Water Quality Improves in Indian Creek Following Wastewater Treatment Upgrades | Study Finds Urbanization Plays a Large Role in Water Quality - 10/1/14 - Nutrient levels decreased 40 to 55 percent in Indian Creek following upgrades and changes to treatment processes at the Douglas L. Smith Middle Basin and Tomahawk Creek Wastewater Treatment Facilities (WWTFs) in Johnson County, Kansas, according to a new U.S. Geological Survey study.

High levels of nutrients, which are essential for plant growth, are not necessarily beneficial. <http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=4019>

Associated Press - A Decade After Welcoming Wind, States Reconsider - 10/1/14 - A decade ago, states offered wind-energy developers an open-armed embrace, envisioning a bright future for an industry that would offer cheap electricity, new jobs and steady income for large landowners, especially in rural areas with few other economic prospects. <http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/decade-welcoming-wind-states-reconsider-25894485>

NPR - When Can A Big Storm Or Drought Be Blamed On Climate Change? (audio - 3:48) - 10/1/14 - Nowadays, when there's a killer heat wave or serious drought somewhere, people wonder: Is this climate change at work? It's a question scientists have struggled with for years. <http://www.npr.org/2014/10/01/352762019/when-can-a-big-storm-or-drought-be-blamed-on-climate-change>

New Republic - Sam Brownback Supported Wind Farms in Kansas—Until the Koch Brothers Changed His Mind - 10/1/13 - Under pressure from the Kochs and Koch Industries, who oppose measures to shift American energy use away from fossil fuels, Brownback has reversed his support for encouraging Kansas's wind industry. <http://www.newrepublic.com/article/119672/koch-brothers-changed-sam-brownbacks-opinion-wind-power>

Salina Journal (Kan.) - Workers out for a clear picture in advance of cleanup - 10/1/14 - Mark Resch isn't sure if the work is exciting, but it's necessary to map the size, intensity and movement of plumes of pollutants, primarily a cancer-causing contaminant called TCE, or trichloroethylene. Dragun officials reported that preliminary data suggested contamination wasn't as bad as feared in some area <http://www.salina.com/news/dragun-and-airport-10114>

Restore - Mississippi River Mayors Meet in New Orleans - 10/1/14 - Last month, the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative, an alliance of 65 mayors from along the Mississippi River, met in New Orleans to discuss issues common to all cities along the great river. <http://www.mississippiriverdelta.org/blog/2014/10/01/mississippi-river-mayors-meet-in-new-orleans/>

The Hill - Small Business Administration hits EPA over water rule - 10/14 - A fight is breaking out inside the Obama administration over the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed water regulation. The Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy on Wednesday urged the EPA to withdraw the Waters of the U.S. rule, which seeks to clarify the agency's authority to regulate smaller bodies of water like streams and rivers. <http://thehill.com/regulation/219516-small-business-administration-criticizes-epa-over-new-waters-rule>

Environmental Defense Fund - Oil and Gas States Improve Efforts to Protect Water, Yet More Work Is Needed - 10/1/14 - An analysis of state regulations issued today by the Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC) reports that a growing number of oil-and-gas producing states have updated or created new rules and policies to better protect water sources. <http://www.edf.org/media/oil-and-gas-states-improve-efforts-protect-water-yet-more-work-needed>

Biofuels Digest - Governors urging Obama Administration on RFS: protect consumer choice, jobs, and reduce dependence on foreign oil - 10/1/14 - Illinois Governor Pat Quinn and Iowa Governor Terry Branstad, chairman and vice chairman of the Governors' Biofuels Coalition, sent a letter urging the Obama Administration to ensure the development of domestically produced renewable fuels by amending EPA's proposed RFS levels for 2014 so consumers have real choices at the fuel pump. <http://www.biofuelsdigest.com/bdigest/2014/10/01/governors-urging-obama-administration-on-rfs-protect-consumer-choice-jobs-and-reduce-dependence-on-foreign-oil/>

E&E News PM - Think tank assesses how cost-benefit studies vary by administration - 10/1/14 - Recent Democratic and Republican administrations have treated costs and benefits analyses of rulemakings differently, according to an analysis released today by Resources for the Future. <http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/stories/1060006743/>

E&E News - Polar vortex temperatures plunged below many power plant operating scenarios, NERC reports - 10/1/14 - The extreme subfreezing temperatures during last winter's polar vortex siege took down nearly every type of equipment found on electric generating plants, forcing more than 17,700 megawatts of generating capacity to shut down at one point, a regulatory review reported yesterday. <http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060006687>

ClimateWire - With greater gas mileage come harmful carbon particulates -- report - 10/1/14 - New research on particulate emissions from the Fuels, Engines and Emissions Research Center at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the grass underlying these instruments -- officially known as gasoline direct-injection engines, or GDIs -- may not be as green as environmentalists might hope. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1060006770/>

Live Science - Climate Change Could Alter the Human Male-Female Ratio - 9/30/14 - Climate change could affect the ratio of human males to human females that are born in some countries, a new study from Japan suggests. The researchers found that male fetuses may be particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. <http://www.livescience.com/48070-male-fetus-climate-change.html>

EcoWatch - Fracked Oil Bomb Trains at Center of Federal Rules Debate - 10/2/14 - The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has just closed comments on its proposed new rules for tanker cars carrying explosive fracked oil. And while environmental and citizen groups say they don't go far enough in protecting communities from potential disaster, the oil industry wants many more years to comply. <http://ecowatch.com/2014/10/02/fracked-oil-bomb-trains/>

BNA - EPA Planning to Issue Health Advisories On Harmful Algal Blooms by May 2015 - 10/1/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency is aiming to issue by May 2015 drinking water health advisories for cyanobacteria, the harmful forms of blue-green algae that contaminated water supplies in Toledo, Ohio. <http://www.bna.com/epa-planning-issue-n17179895601/>

MIT News - George Shultz: "Climate is changing," and we need more action - 10/1/14 -

Former secretary of state — and former MIT professor — urges progress on multiple fronts. <http://newsoffice.mit.edu/2014/george-shultz-climate-change-mit-talk-1001>

National Geographic - Is 2 Degrees the Right Limit for Global Warming? Some Scientists Say No - 10/1/14 - We've come to think of it as the threshold of catastrophic climate change—but it's the wrong limit to set, two researchers argue. <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/03/141001-two-degrees-global-warming-climate-science/>

The Hill - Lawmakers want answers from EPA on toxic algae - 10/01/14 - Three House Republicans are asking the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) what it's doing to prevent tap water crises like the one in Toledo, Ohio, in August. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/219496-lawmakers-want-answers-from-epa-on-toxic-algae>

Wall Street Journal (blog) - The Least-Effective Way to Invest in Green Energy – 10/2/14 - Renewable-energy subsidies suffer from host of design errors, but setting per-project subsidies on relatively arbitrary, administratively determined bases is likely one of the more pervasive and inefficient of all renewable-subsidy design errors. <http://blogs.wsj.com/experts/2014/10/02/the-least-effective-way-to-invest-in-green-energy/>

Wall Street Journal (blog) - Let's Find Out How Much 'Clean Power' the Feds Really Have - 10/1/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency's proposed Clean Power Plan is unquestionably the most controversial rule the agency has ever proposed. <http://online.wsj.com/articles/brian-h-potts-and-david-r-zoppo-lets-find-out-how-much-clean-power-the-feds-really-have-1412204691>

Wall Street Journal (blog) - Neighboring Countries Should Harmonize Energy Policies - 10/2/14 - As much as there is no one cure for every pain, no single energy policy is sufficient for every country. The status and challenges

of the energy markets are very different world-wide. But countries would benefit if they did more to harmonize their policies with those of their neighbors. <http://blogs.wsj.com/experts/2014/10/02/neighbors-countries-should-harmonize-energy-policies/>

Slate - Opinion: Climate Science Is Settled Enough | The Wall Street Journal's fresh face of climate - 10/1/14 -

When the Wall Street Journal publishes yet another argument for doing nothing about global warming, it's just a dog-bites-man story. So why should anybody get particularly exercised by the Journal's latest incarnation of this fixed idea, in the form of an extended essay by Steve Koonin?

http://www.slate.com/articles/health_and_science/science/2014/10/the_wall_street_journal_and_steve_koonin_the_new_face_of_climate.html

Ag Professional - Coalition questions legitimacy of EPA's proposed WOTUS rule - 10/1/14 - The Agricultural Retailers Association and fellow members of the Waters Advocacy Coalition (WAC) submitted a 10-page letter Monday describing and documenting the coalition's serious concerns with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed rule defining Waters of the United States (WOTUS).

<http://www.agprofessional.com/news/Coalition-questions-legitimacy-of-EPA's-proposed-WOTUS-rule-277788791.html>

KWMU St. Louis Public Radio – Environmental Activist to Address Bridgeton Landfill Concerns – 10/2/14 -

Environmental activist Lois Gibbs will be in St. Louis this weekend for a “teach-in” to address problems at the adjoining Bridgeton and West Lake landfills, located in Bridgeton a few miles from Lambert Airport.

<http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/environmental-activist-address-bridgeton-landfill-concerns>

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Lois Gibbs of Love Canal fame to speak on West Lake Landfill - 10/2/14 -

In the 1970s, Lois Gibbs battled an environmental hazard in her New York neighborhood of Love Canal, leading to an evacuation and a national crisis. Now Gibbs says something similar could happen to the area near the radioactive West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton. http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/lois-gibbs-of-love-canal-fame-to-speak-on-west/article_9bbc5f0f-bd66-5a4c-8ff5-3b3a335c9ecf.html

KBIA Mid-Missouri Public Radio - Skepticism surrounds new Clean Water Act proposal - 10/2/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Army Corps of Engineers released a draft proposal aimed to strengthen the protection for clean water. However, many farmers and groups are skeptical about the proposed rule. The rule would expand federal authority over “waters of the United States.” <http://kbia.org/post/skepticism-surrounds-new-clean-water-act-proposal>

Drovers CattleNetwork - EPA, American Farm Bureau Federation disagree on water rule - 10/1/14 - Recent statements by the Environmental Protection Agency regarding the latest Clean Water Act rulemaking violate basic open-government requirements, a group of 63 business and agriculture organizations told the EPA and Congress. The resulting failure to comply with the Administrative Procedures Act is so egregious, the Waters Access Coalition said, the agency should withdraw the rule altogether. <http://www.cattlenetwork.com/cattle-news/EPA-American-Farm-Bureau-Federation-disagree-on-water-rule-277735251.html>

Ag Professional - Study suggests more waters may deserve federal protection - 9/30/14 - Federal environmental law can be tricky business. Defining which bodies of water are protected by the federal Clean Water Act can impact the permits required for someone developing their land, especially when wetlands could be affected. <http://www.agprofessional.com/news/Study-suggests-more-waters-may-deserve-federal-protection-277600411.html>

E&E News PM - SBA advocacy office urges Obama admin to withdraw rule proposal - 10/1/14 - An independent office within the Small Business Administration says the Obama administration incorrectly concluded that a controversial Clean Water Act proposal would have minimal impacts on small businesses and is calling for it to be withdrawn. <http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2014/10/01/stories/1060006748>

Des Moines Register - Letter: Governor has ignored voices of Iowans - 10/2/14 - Iowans want a clean-water governor, not one who consistently carries [dirty] water for the corporate ag industry. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/readers/2014/10/02/iowans-want-clean-water-governor-one-consistently-carries-dirty-water-corporate-ag-industry/16568475/>

Inside Climate - Open Pits Offer Cheap Disposal for Fracking Sludge, but Health Worries Mount - 10/2/14 - A 1988 federal rule exempts oil waste from a 'hazardous' designation, allowing for lax disposal methods that could expose people to dangerous emissions. <http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20141002/open-pits-offer-cheap-disposal-fracking-sludge-health-worries-mount>

NOTE: Paywall issues may keep you from seeing this article. Full text is included at the end of this email.

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

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10/2/14 – Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Becky Weber, 7487

10/3/14 – Iowa Water Challenges Outreach Event with Brody Middle School, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

10/4/14 – Iowa Sierra Club Annual Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

10/9/14 – Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Energy & Environmental Roundtable and Reception, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Dave Bryan, 7433

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10/10/14 – Nebraska State Bar Association, La Vista, Neb. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

10/21-22/14 – EPA Lean Summit, Washington, D.C. Contact: Becky Weber, 7487

10/30/14 – COOP Exercise, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Chris Taylor, 7736

11/12/14 – Native American Heritage Event Discussion on “Climate Change and Adaptation in Indian Country, Regional Office. Contact: Alex Owutaka, 7584

11/18/14 – Region 7 Small Business Environmental Assistance Providers, Regional Office. Contact: Gary Bertram, 7533

DRA:

10/7/14 - Employee Appreciation Event, Regional Office contact: Monica Espinosa, 7541

10/30/14 – COOP Exercise, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Chris Taylor, 7736

11/12/14 – Native American Heritage Event Discussion on “Climate Change and Adaptation in Indian Country, Regional Office. Contact: Alex Owutaka, 7584

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

None

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

10/5-8/14 – Superfund 101 Training, Chicago, Illinois. Contact: A. Moses, 7649

10/19-22/14 – Senior Enforcement Managers Meeting, Washington, D.C., Contact: D. Singletary, x7373

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

10/14/14 – Attend West Lake Landfill CAG meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

SUPR

10/7/14 – Greater St. Louis Sub-Area Committee, Industry Day Workshop for spill response strategies on the lower Missouri River, St. Charles, Mo. – Contact: Jeff Weatherford 636-326-4720

10/22/14 – Public Availability Session to discuss remedial action and the Five Year Review for the Parkview Well Site, Grand Island, Neb. Contact: Brad Vann, 7611

WWPD

9/30-10/2/14 – North Central Region Water Network's Water Resource Management Conference, Bloomington, Minn. Contact: Damon Frizzell, 7560

10/8-9/14 – 2014 National CAFO Roundtable, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

10/15-16/14 – Big River Task Force Meeting with Other State and Federal Agencies, Farmington, Mo. Contact: Jeannette Schafer, 7297

10/20-21/14 – Hypoxia Task Force Meeting, Alton, Ill. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

11/3-6/14 – EPA Tribal 106 Coordinators Meeting, Washington, DC. Contact: Heather Duncan, 7640

Des Moines Register

Letter: Governor has ignored voices of Iowans

10/2/14

They ought to quit shouting and start listening to the people who will be most affected." That was Gov. Branstad's retort [Sept. 30] to some pesky protesters who were out in force at an industry-sponsored meeting Monday in Des Moines. The governor and his big-money friends were complaining about a clean-water rule being proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Funny thing is, the "people most affected" by Iowa's clean water crisis are the very people Branstad has deliberately ignored, and not listened to. for years. Hundreds of thousands of Iowans have had to put up with Branstad's legacy:

- 748 manure spills since 1996.
- 630 polluted waterways as of 2012.
- Toxic algae blooms and high nitrates in our lakes and rivers.
- 20 million corporate hogs producing the waste equivalent of 45 million people.

Iowans want a clean-water governor, not one who consistently carries [dirty] water for the corporate ag industry.

— Hugh Espey, executive director, Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement Action Fund, Des Moines